Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Memorial Day began in 1868 as an occasion for placing flowers on the graves of those who died in the Civil War. Since that time, it has become an occasion to remember the contributions of all Americans who have died for their country in conflicts from the time of the Revolutionary War to the present; and,

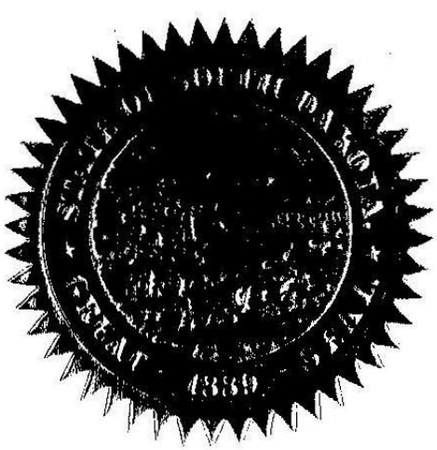
Whereas, Memorial Day needs to be made relevant to both present and future generations of Americans. In our hectic modern lifestyle, we often do not take the time to remember those who fought and died for our country; and,

Whereas, The *National Moment of Remembrance* on Memorial Day was formally established by an Act of Congress to encourage Americans to reclaim the holiday for its original purpose – to honor fellow citizens who died in service to the United States. On December 28, 2000, Public Law 106-579, the Remembrance Act, created the White House Commission on the National Moment of Remembrance to implement this act of national unity; and,

Whereas, The *National Moment of Remembrance* does not replace traditional Memorial Day events; rather, it is an act that unites us and connects us in this shared remembrance for Americans to commit themselves to **Live Honoring America's Fallen**; and,

Whereas, All citizens are encouraged to observe a statewide *Moment of Remembrance* on Memorial Day by pausing at 3 p.m. It is a time of reflection and commitment to give back to our country in memory of America's fallen:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 25, 2009, as a day in South Dakota for all to spend a *Moment of Remembrance*, and I designate 3 p.m. as a time to simultaneously pause in an act of national unity, to honor those Americans who gave their lives in securing the blessings of our liberty.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-second Day of May in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Nine.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State